In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Twice Amended) Method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition of a purified biologically active protein, comprising the steps of

adding to a solution of the purified protein a non-ionic detergent;

subjecting the solution containing the non-ionic detergent to filtration on a virus removal filter with a pore size of 10 to 40 $\,$ nm; and

recovering the filtrate.

Claim 9. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising prefiltering said solution obtained in step (1) with a 0.04-4.2 um filter prior to said step (2) and subjecting the filtrate obtained in step (2) to sterile filtration.

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Claim 17. Amended) A method of removing and/or inactivating intact or non-intact bacteria, viral material, or prions from a pharmaceutical composition of a purified biologically active interferon protein comprising:

- (1) adding to a solution of the purified interferon protein a non-ionic detergent;
- (2) subjecting the solution containing the non-ionic detergent to filtration on a virus removal filter with a pore size of 10 to 40 nm; and
- (3) recovering the filtrate.